

REMARKS

Summary of the Office Action

Claims 1-58 are currently pending.

Claims 1-5 and 9-30 were rejected.

Claims 6-8, 57, and 58 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent from.

Claims 31-56 were previously withdrawn.

Applicants' Response

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 6-8, 57, and 58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent from including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Solely to expedite prosecution, Applicant amends claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claim 6, which the Examiner indicated was allowable. Applicant amends claims 7, 9, 18, 19, and 21 to depend from claim 1, and cancels claims 2-6, and 30-56 without prejudice. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the application and claims as originally filed, and Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added. Amendments to the claims are being made solely to expedite prosecution and do not constitute an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections. Applicants reserve the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims in the present or a subsequent application. Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-29 and 57-58 are pending.

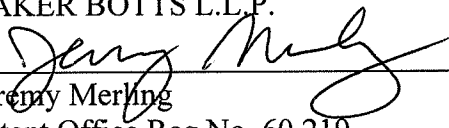
CONCLUSION

Applicant submits that this Amendment and Response to Final Office Action and the accompanying remarks do not raise new issues for consideration or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner. This Amendment and Response to Final Office Action should therefore allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

On the basis of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims of the present application are allowable over the prior art of record. Applicant thus respectfully requests the previous rejections be withdrawn, and that the pending claims be allowed by the Examiner. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge any additional fees and/or credit any overpayments associated with this paper to Baker Botts L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 02-4377, Ref. No. 070050.1870. Further, if a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not provided for above, Applicant requests such extension and authorizes the charging of the extension fee to Baker Botts L.L.P. Deposit Account No. 02-4377, Ref. No. 070050.1870.

Dated: May 20, 2009

Respectfully submitted,
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